

a prepaid card reader for reading information about a current remainder of prepayment from the prepaid card, and

a registering section for subtracting the price of the individual commodity identified by said commodity price identifying section from the current remainder of prepayment read by said prepaid card reader, and registering the result of the subtraction on the prepaid card as a new remainder of prepayment.

38. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 37, wherein said payment processor further comprises a indicating section for indicating, if necessary, that the current remainder read by said prepaid card reader is insufficient for the price of the individual commodity identified by said commodity price identifying section.

39. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 38, wherein said payment processor further comprises a first selecting section for selecting, when the current remainder is insufficient for the individual price of the commodity, either (i) to carry out the payment with another prepaid card or (ii) to cancel the payment, and controlling said prepaid card reader and said remainder registering section accordingly.

40. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 37, wherein said payment processor further comprises a receipt issuing section for issuing a receipt upon completion of the payment.

41. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 38, wherein said payment processor further comprises a receipt issuing section for issuing a receipt upon completion of the payment.

42. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 39, wherein said payment processor further comprises a receipt issuing section for issuing a receipt upon completion of the payment.

43. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 40, wherein said payment processor further comprises a second selecting section for selecting either a receipt for the payment is needed or not, and controlling said receipt issuing section accordingly.

44. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 41, wherein said payment processor further comprises a second selecting section for selecting either a receipt for the payment is needed or not, and controlling said receipt issuing section accordingly.

45. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 42, wherein said payment processor further comprises a second selecting section for selecting either a receipt for the payment is needed or not, and controlling said receipt issuing section accordingly.

46. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart, comprising:

a cart body for carrying one or more commodities; and

a payment processor for handling a payment for the commodities with a credit card, having

a commodity code reader for reading a commodity code applied to the individual commodity,

a commodity price identifying section for identifying the price of the individual commodity based on the commodity code read by said commodity code reader,

a credit card reader for reading information about an associated charge account from the credit card, and

a charging section for charging the price of the individual commodity identified by said commodity price identifying section to the charge account read by said credit card reader.

47. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 46, wherein said payment processor is also operable to handling a payment with a prepaid card and further comprises:

a prepaid card reader for reading information about a current remainder of prepayment from the prepaid card; and

a registering section for subtracting the price of the individual commodity identified by said commodity price identifying section from the current remainder of prepayment read by said prepaid card reader, and registering the result of the subtraction on the prepaid card as a new remainder of prepayment.

48. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 37, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

an instruction receiver for receiving a power on/off instruction from an external management apparatus; and

a power on/off section for automatically turning on/off the power of said payment processor in response to the power on/off instruction received by said data reception section.

49. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 46, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

an instruction receiver for receiving a power on/off instruction from an external management apparatus; and

a power on/off section for automatically turning on/off the power of said payment processor in response to the power on/off instruction received by said data reception section.

50. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 37, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

a measuring section for measuring the total weight of the commodities carried by said cart body; and

an observing section for observing whether a change in the total weight measured by said measuring section accompanies the reading operation of the commodity code by said commodity code reader; and

an alarm generating section for generating an alarm when said observing section observes that any change in the total weight does not accompany the reading operation of the commodity code.

51. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 46, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

a measuring section for measuring the total weight of the commodities carried by said cart body;; and

an observing section for observing whether a change in the total weight measured by said measuring section accompanies the reading operation of the commodity code by said commodity code reader; and

an alarm generating section for generating an alarm when said observing section observes that any change in the total weight does not accompany the reading operation of the commodity code.

52. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 48, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

a measuring section for measuring the total weight of the commodities carried by said cart body;

a observing section for observing whether a change in the total weight measured by said measuring section accompanies the reading operation of the commodity code by said commodity code reader; and

an alarm generating section for generating an alarm when said observing section observes that any change in the total weight does not accompany the reading operation of the commodity code.

53. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 49, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

a measuring section for measuring the total weight of the commodities carried by said cart body;

an observing section for observing whether a change in the total weight measured by said measuring section accompanies the reading operation of the commodity code by said commodity code reader; and

an alarm generating section for generating an alarm when said observing section observes that any change in the total weight does not accompany the reading operation of the commodity code.